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Utah Agriculture

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Farm Labor

MOUNTAIN REGION II: (includes Utah, Nevada, and Colorado): During the week of April 6 -12, 2008 there were 20,000 workers hired by farm operators in the region. All hired workers (excluding Agricultural Service Workers) were paid an average wage of \$10.05 per hour, up 9 cents from January 2008 and 55 cents lower than the national average. Field workers received \$9.33 per hour on average, up 25 cents from January 2008. Livestock workers received \$9.81 per hour, up \$.34 from January 2008.

UNITED STATES: There were 919,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 6-12, 2008, down 7 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 700,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 219,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.60 per hour during the April 2008 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.65 per hour, up 30 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$10.32 per hour compared with \$9.59 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.87 per hour, was up 45 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region and United States, April 6-12 2008 ¹

U.S. and Region	Hired							
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less		Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Hours per Week	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour
Mountain I ²	21	17	4	43.2	9.46	9.09	9.25	9.50
Mountain II ³	20	16	4	41.0	9.33	9.81	9.55	10.05
Mountain III ⁴	17	16	1	43.6	9.38	10.69	9.97	10.55
US	700	563	137	41.0	9.65	10.32	9.87	10.60

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Mountain I - Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. ³ Mountain II - Colorado, Nevada and Utah. ⁴ Mountain III - Arizona and New Mexico.

Winter Wheat Production up 17 Percent for U.S.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.78 billion bushels, up 17 percent from 2007. Expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 40.2 million acres, up 12 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.3 bushels per acre, up 2.1 bushels from the previous year. Hard Red production is up 5 percent from a year ago to 1.01 billion bushels. Soft Red production is up 54 percent and totals 551 million bushels. White production totals 215 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 23.2 million bushels are Hard White and 192 million bushels are Soft White.

Agricultural Prices

UTAH: Mid-May 2008 prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers for baled alfalfa hay was \$155.00 per ton, up \$5.00 from last month, and up \$35.00 per ton from last year. Other hay, at \$130.00 per ton, was up \$5.00 from last month, and \$40.00 higher than May 2007. Barley price was not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. The average price of all milk purchased in April 2008 from Utah farmers was \$18.20 per hundred wt. (Cwt) down 50 cents from March 2008, and up \$2.20 from the April 2007.

UNITED STATES: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 5 points (3.4 percent) from April. The Crop Index is up 4 points (2.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 5 points (3.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for hogs, cattle, onions, and broilers and lower prices for eggs, lettuce, wheat, and broccoli. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cantaloups, grapes, sweet corn, and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, corn, and apples. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 14 points (10 percent) from May 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 147, increased 5 points (3.5 percent) from last month and increased 11 points (8.1 percent) from May 2007.

Average Prices Received by Farmers ¹

Commodity	Utah						United States					
	Barley ²		Alfalfa Hay Baled ³		Other Hay Baled ³		Barley ²		Alfalfa Hay Baled ³		Other Hay Baled ³	
Month	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
January	3.65	6.03	105.00	145.00	79.00	120.00	3.03	4.34	112.00	135.00	104.00	118.00
February	3.91	(⁴)	107.00	150.00	81.00	130.00	3.09	4.39	115.00	138.00	107.00	122.00
March	3.70	4.76	113.00	150.00	87.00	125.00	3.11	4.17	121.00	143.00	115.00	128.00
April	3.18	(⁴)	113.00	150.00	85.00	125.00	3.07	4.54	127.00	157.00	115.00	140.00
May	3.72	(⁴)	120.00	155.00	90.00	130.00	3.12	4.76	145.00	177.00	115.00	134.00
June	(⁴)		121.00		92.00		3.30		137.00		111.00	
July	3.38		123.00		105.00		3.45		137.00		113.00	
August	3.39		130.00		118.00		3.54		137.00		118.00	
September	4.71		132.00		114.00		4.04		135.00		124.00	
October	5.58		132.00		110.00		4.50		137.00		122.00	
November	5.22		135.00		120.00		4.34		135.00		123.00	
December	4.99		140.00		120.00		4.51		136.00		126.00	

¹ March 2008 is mid-month. ² Dollars per bushel. ³ Dollars per ton. ⁴ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

Commodity ¹	Utah		United States	
	All Milk		All Milk	
Month	2007	2008	2007	2008
January	14.50	20.20	14.50	20.50
February	14.70	18.70	14.90	19.10
March	15.50	18.70	15.60	18.30
April	16.00	18.20	16.60	18.00
May	17.80		18.00	18.20 ²
June	20.20		20.20	
July	21.20		21.60	
August	21.00		21.60	
September	21.40		21.80	
October	21.10		21.40	
November	21.10		21.90	
December	21.10		21.50	

¹ Dollars per hundred wt.(CWT) ² preliminary

Hay Stocks on Farms

UTAH: Hay stocks totaled 215,000 tons on May 1, 2008, up 16.2 percent from May 1 of the previous year.

UNITED STATES: Hay Stocks on Farms: All hay stored on farms May 1, 2008 totaled 21.6 million tons, up 44 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2007- May 1, 2008 totaled 82.4 million tons, 1 percent more than the disappearance of 81.5 million tons for the same period a year earlier. Hay stocks increased from last year throughout the entire Great Plains, the Delta, most of the Southeast, and the Rocky Mountain States. Hay stocks increased significantly in Texas and Oklahoma where weather conditions during the 2007 growing season nearly doubled hay production and improved pasture conditions throughout the year. Lower 2007 hay production in most States east of the Mississippi River, except in the Southeast, held May 1, 2008 hay stocks below a year ago. The largest declines occurred in Kentucky, Minnesota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. In Kentucky and Tennessee where stocks are less than half of the previous year, production was down due to the April 2007 freeze and dry summer weather, so some producers resorted to hauling hay in from other States. Wisconsin's May 1 hay stocks are at a record low level while Tennessee recorded the lowest May 1 hay stock level since 1962.

**Hay Stocks on Farms
Selected States & U.S.**

State	December 1		May 1	
	2006	2007	2007	2008
1,000 Tons				
AZ	350	260	35	36
CA	1,785	1,890	202	250
CO	2,130	2,400	290	520
ID	2,575	2,400	320	300
MT	4,105	4,500	760	1,025
NV	879	767	202	90
NM	470	580	105	125
UT	1,410	1,130	185	215
WY	1,600	1,900	220	240
US	96,555	103,986	15,013	21,593

Livestock Slaughter

UTAH: Commercial red meat production totaled 40.4 million pounds in April 2008, up 15.4 percent from the same month of the previous year. **Cattle slaughter** in Utah for April 2008 totaled 50.1 thousand head, 11.3 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight was 1,290 pounds, up 45 pounds from April 2007. **Hog slaughter** totaled 5,600 head up 19.1 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was 207 pounds, up 12 pounds from the previous year. **Sheep and lamb slaughter** during April 2008 totaled 3,000 head up 7.1 percent from the previous year. Average live weight, at 137 pounds, down 5 pounds from the previous year.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.30 billion pounds in April, up 14 percent from the 3.75 billion pounds produced in April 2007. **Beef production**, at 2.25 billion pounds, was 12 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, up 10 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,259 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 11.9 million pounds, 1 percent above April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 73,300 head, up 29 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was down 70 pounds from last year, at 278 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 2.02 billion pounds, up 18 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.99 million head, up 18 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 269 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 15.3 million pounds, was up 2 percent from April 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 221,400 head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from April a year ago. **January to April 2008 commercial red meat production** was 16.8 billion pounds, up 8 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 13 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent.

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Manufactured Dairy Products

UTAH: **Total cheese** output (excluding cottage cheese) in March 2008, at 7.9 million pounds, was 4.8 percent above March 2007, and 9.9 percent above February 2008. **Hard ice cream** production at 2.4 million gallons, was 1.7 percent above March 2008, and was 53.2 percent above February 2008.

UNITED STATES: **Total cheese** output (excluding cottage cheese) was 834 million pounds, 0.7 percent below March 2007 but 6.3 percent above February 2008. **Italian type cheese** production totaled 358 million pounds, 1.2 percent below March 2007 but 6.9 percent above February 2008. **American type cheese** production totaled 340 million pounds, 0.3 percent above March 2007 and 6.5 percent above February 2008. **Butter** production was 154 million pounds, 11.5 percent above March 2007 and 5.2 percent above February 2008. Hard Ice Cream production at 73.7 million gallons was down 5.5 percent from March 2007, and up 13.1 from February 2008.

Manufactured Dairy Production – March 2007-2008 with Comparisons

Product	Utah			United States		
	March 2007	February ¹ 2008	March 2008	March 2007	February ¹ 2008	March 2008
1,000 Pounds						
Total Cheese	7,513	7,168	7,876	840,522	784,649	834,320
1,000 Gallons						
Hard ice cream	2,346	1,557	2,385	78,036	65,176	73,745

¹ Revised.